

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

In Figure 2, the reference numeral 21 has been deleted. A Replacement drawing sheet of Figure 2 is attached.

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for comments, which have greatly assisted Applicants in responding to this Office Action.

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Claims 1-7 and 17-23 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 4, 17, and 20 have been amended for further clarification. Claims 3 and 19 have been cancelled without prejudice and their limitations have been incorporated into Claims 1 and 17, respectively.

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Drawings

The drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5). Figure 2 has been corrected to address the Examiner's objection and a Replacement drawing sheet of Figure 2 is attached. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the Drawings.

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Specification

The disclosure was objected to because of informalities. The Abstract of the Disclosure was also objected to because of informalities. The specification has been amended to address the Examiner's objections. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections to the specification.

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Claim Rejections

Claims 1-2 and 17-18 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura (USPN 6,184,808) in view of Takahashi (USPN 5,210,754). Independent Claims 1 and 17 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of respective allowable claims 3 and 19. Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 17 and their dependent claims 2, 4-7, 18, and 20-23 are distinguishable over Nakamura and Takahashi, taken alone or in combination, and should be allowed. Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the Claims is respectfully requested.

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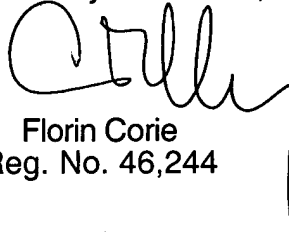
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Conclusion

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Based on the foregoing, Applicants consider the claimed invention to be distinguished from the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants earnestly solicit the Examiner's withdrawal of the rejections raised in the above referenced Office Action, such that a Notice of Allowance is forwarded to Applicants, and the present application is therefore allowed to issue as a United States Patent.

Respectfully Submitted,



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